

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08380 210508Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 DOTE-00 A-01 MMO-01 ABF-01
FS-01 PER-01 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 /053 W
-----118929 211758Z /41

R 201559Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
SECSTATE WASHDC 0778

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, OTRA, AFSP, GE, WB, UR, PL
SUBJECT: RAIL TRAVEL TO WEST BERLIN VIA EAST BERLIN

REF: WARSAW 3174

1. WE WISH TO ADD OUR SUPPORT TO THE PROPOSAL TO HAVE BONN AND USBERLIN REVIEW AGAIN THE QUESTION OF PROVIDING AUTOMOBILES AND DRIVERS FOR RAIL TRANSIT OF THE BERLIN SECTOR LINE (REFTEL). AS HAS SO OFTEN BEEN NOTED, DENYING EMPLOYEES OF EMBASSY MOSCOW THE USE OF THE TRAIN IS A SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC AND MORALE PROBLEM FOR FAMILIES TRYING TO VACATION OUTSIDE THE USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE, PARTICULARLY FOR THOSE WHO MUST PAY THE INCREASED AIR FARES WITH NO REIMBURSEMENT BY THE USG. U.S. MISSION BERLIN AND U.S. COMMANDER BERLIN SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THIS FINANCIAL BURDEN FALLS ON ALL EMBASSY FAMILIES, BUT THAT THE HEAVIEST BURDEN FALLS HARDEST ON LOWER SALARIED STAFF AND DAO NON-COM PERSONNEL.

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2. WE CANNOT BE SURE HOW MANY ADDITIONAL CARS AND DRIVERS WOULD HAVE TO BE ASSIGNED TO SUCH TRANSIT DUTIES, BUT WE CALCULATE THAT IT WOULD BE LESS THAN TWO TO FOUR FULL-TIME DRIVERS ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT MOST OF THE TRANSITTING COULD BE PERFORMED BY A DUTY DRIVER WHOSE LATE EVENING CALLS ARE RELATIVELY INFREQUENT (THE TRAIN COMES THROUGH BERLIN AT 2250). WE WOULD ALSO BE WILLING

TO LESSEN THE BURDEN BY GIVING ADVANCE NOTICE OF ANY TRAVELERS WHO WOULD WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TRANSIT ARRANGEMENT ONCE IT IS SET UP. IN THIS WAY THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL CARS AND DRIVERS COULD BE MINIMIZED. WE WOULD EVEN BE WILLING TO RESTRICT SUCH TRAVEL TO TWO OR THREE DAYS PER WEEK, IF THIS WOULD LESSEN THE REQUIREMENTS ON THE BERLIN END. WE ASSUME THAT EVEN WERE MORE THAN ONE FAMILY TO COME THROUGH IN ONE NIGHT, THAT A SINGLE VAN OR OTHER OVERSIZED VEHICLE COULD BE USED.

3. WE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION BY OUR COLLEAGUES IN BERLIN, CIVILIAN AND MILITARY.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL, URBAN TRANSPORTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW08380
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780171-0453
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780435/aaaabdjv.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e46279aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 WARSAW 3174
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2903542
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RAIL TRAVEL TO WEST BERLIN VIA EAST BERLIN
TAGS: PGOV, OTRA, AFSP, GC, WB, UR, PL
To: BERLIN BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e46279aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014